



Common Questions and Answers

Are Oz-Posts™ as strong as concrete?

Oz-Posts™ have been tested to high levels of horizontal forces and have been found more than suitable for the majority of fencing and sign projects. A fence or sign constructed as recommended using Oz-Posts™ will be equally as strong as traditional concrete installation. A post placed in a standard 6"-8" post hole with one or two bags of concrete takes minimum of a ½ an hour to install. (not to mention a day to dry) This method is not any stronger than an Oz-Post installed by one person in four minutes.

Testing has proven that the weakest part of almost any fence installation is the wooden or metal post. This also holds true for an Oz-Post™ installation. Testing has shown that the post will break or bend before the Oz-Post™ fails when installed as recommended. Of course Oz-Posts™ and 6"-8" post holes with concrete are not suitable for all fence designs or all signs but most standard fence designs and signs allowed by city councils can be installed with the Oz-Post™ system. If you have any questions on the suitability of the Oz-Post™ system for your next project feel free to call our customer service department for more information.

How high can I go?

The maximum recommended height for a wood fence is 8' with post spacing at 6'. For a chain link fence the maximum recommended height is 8' with post spacing at 8'. (Please confirm with your local authority as these height restrictions may vary depending upon your location). Additional information on fence sizing and post spacing is available on our web site www.oz-post.com.

What size and type should I use?

The size and style of Oz-Post™ is determined by post materials that you intend to use. For some post sizes Oz-Post offers several different styles for various applications. A good rule of thumb is to use the longest Oz-Post™ that can be easily driven into the ground. The more firm and compacted the ground is the shorter the Oz-Post™ you will require. If you have a special application that you would like to use Oz-Posts for let us know we more than likely have a special model for your needs.

What happens if I hit Rock?

The Oz-Post™ becomes an extension of your jackhammer. As a result it will break through loose shale and some rock. Smaller boulders will be pushed aside as the Oz-Post™ penetrates the ground. You may need to straighten the assembly a few times as the Oz-Post™ hits and deflects small boulders. Large solid bedrock and boulders cannot be penetrated by Oz-Post™, in these extreme cases you will have to move the hole, or try a shorter or tapered Oz-Post™. Remember a bobcat or post-hole auger will not penetrate most of the softer rock or concrete that Oz-Post™ can easily handle. Both Oz-Post™ and traditional methods will not penetrate solid rock!

Can Oz-Posts™ be removed?

Yes, Oz-Posts™ can be extracted if they are placed in the wrong spot, the fence needs moving, or they are only temporary. In lightly compacted soil conditions you can remove Oz-Post™ by using a 6' long pry bar. Place the pry bar under the housing, and using a piece of wood or a concrete building block placed at approximately 10" from the Oz-Post™ you can lever the Oz-Post™ out of the ground. If this fails your Oz-Post™ distributor can sell or rent you an Oz-Puller™ to make this process much easier.

What if the ground becomes water-logged?

Ground soil will expand and contract depending upon the water saturation levels. This is a natural property of ground soil and cannot be avoided. Due to the large surface area of the Oz-Post™ fins there is a high level of adhesion of the soil onto the Oz-Post™. This helps to give Oz-Post™ their lateral strength and support. Where the ground is very water logged you may notice some increased movement in your fence, as the ground dries this deflection in your fence will decrease back to usual levels. It should be noted that these effects and properties are also evident when constructing a fence using concrete.

How does wood shrinkage effect Oz-Post™?

Shrinkage in wood is a natural property, as moisture is absorbed and evaporated from the timber. This is not a concern as the Oz-Post™ housing fully encapsulates the timber post and also allows for drainage. It is recommended that the bolts be tightened 2-6 months after installation to assure the tightest possible connection.

Shrinkage is a far greater problem when considering posts that have been secured using concrete. As the timber shrinks (the concrete does not) a concrete container is created which inevitably will hold water, thus your timber post becomes submerged until the water drains, a great environment for fungal decay. That is why your posts rot out before the fence.

What about Frost?

Oz-Post™ can be used in both warm and cold climates. Frost is a force that can easily ruin any kind of post installation that is not done correctly. Posts that have been installed with post holes and concrete can be "heaved" out of the ground by the freezing and thawing of the surrounding ground. If the buried concrete has rough sides frost can grab the post and heave it out of alignment and eventually completely out of the ground if it is left unattended. In areas that experience below freezing conditions evidence of damage caused by frost is easy to spot. To assure that the concrete has smooth sides it is recommended that paperboard sleeves like "sono-tubes®" be inserted in the augured hole to produce smooth sides and help prevent movement from frost. The use of sono-tubes® is highly recommended for frost prone areas. This adds additional cost to traditional installations that should be considered when comparing with the Oz-Post™ System

On the contrary Oz-Posts™ can be installed even if the ground is already frozen! The smooth fins on the Oz-Post™ give frost nothing to "grab" onto making the installation far less likely to be heaved by the frost. If for whatever reason a post installed with Oz-Posts™ is heaved out of alignment it can easily be removed and reinstalled in the correct location. The same operation with a concrete installation would prove to be very time consuming.

Can Oz-Posts be used on a Gate?

Yes, Oz-Posts can be used for all kinds of gates that would normally be installed with a 6" – 8" post hole and concrete. This includes pedestrian gates up to 5'. If you are installing a gate that

requires more strength there are several options you can use to obtain the desired strength. The simplest and possibly most effective method is to double up the posts on the hinge side of the gate. Placing two posts 10" apart will more than double the strength of the gate. Another gate strengthening technique is to join the top of the gate posts together with a header or similar. These techniques are also standard practice for installing with concrete.

What is an Oz-Hammer™?

Our exclusive Oz-Hammer™ is a high grade steel attachment that fits most common jackhammers. The Oz-Hammer transfers vibrating forces of the jackhammer to the Oz-Post™. You may although need to get a Hammer-Spacer™ to adapt the Oz-Hammer to the Oz-Post™ model that you are using. See our web site to determine which Oz-Posts require the Hammer-Spacer™.

If you are planning to rent a jackhammer most rental centers have Bosch® Brute or Wacker® 60# electric jackhammers that are perfect for any size job. There are also gas powered jackhammers (Wacker® model BH-23 is one popular brand) that are great for remote locations where power cords or generators would have difficulty reaching. Air operated jackhammers will also work, but are not recommended because they are very heavy and much more difficult to handle.

There are many other jackhammer brands and most of them will do the job. To be sure, the main feature that the jackhammer will need is to have a 1 1/8" hex chisel holder with a retaining collar. Custom Oz-Hammers can be made for those who would like to use their existing equipment.

What is a Hammer-Spacer™?

The Hammer-Spacer™ is an adapter for the Oz-Hammer™. An appropriate Hammer-Spacer™ is **REQUIRED** for Oz-Post™ Models: T4-850, P4-850, P5-850, T46-850, and T6-850. If you order one of these models you will need to order an Oz-Hammer™ AND Hammer-Spacer™. You cannot install these posts without the Hammer-Spacer™.

Other Applications for Oz-Posts™?

If you are considering using Oz-Posts™ for applications other than those specified in our literature please consult our customer service department. If we do not have a standard unit that is suitable for your needs our custom engineering department may be able to design and manufacture an Oz-Post™ to suit your requirements.

How long will they last?

Oz-Post™ warranty extends for 25 years in subterranean conditions, where the soil pH remains between 4 and 6.

Has Oz-Post™ been tested?

Yes, Oz-Post™ has been fully tested by the Engineering Department at the University of Queensland. Full testing details are available upon request; please contact our customer service department for more information.